

MINUTES

**Virginia Council on the Status of Women
VA Department of Social Services
7 N. 8th Street
Richmond, VA**

March 18, 2009

Members Present

Judy Collins (Chair)
Madge Bush
Ben Greenberg
Helen Tansey
Gaylene Kanoyton
Maricel Quintana-Baker
Marjorie Signer
Kathy Baske Young
Laura Mandala
Theresa Preda

Members Absent

Susan Kellom
Amelia Ross-Hammond
Patricia Gammon
Amina Rana
Georgia Allen
Charniele Herring

Staff

Karin Clark & Matt Gross, Virginia Department of Social Services

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Judy Collins, Chair, at 10:15 am. The Chair announced the resignations of Randi Mack, Carol Burger and Dolores Arce-Kaptain.

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was reviewed and adopted.

Approval of December 2008 Meeting Minutes

The December 17 minutes were approved.

Meeting Locations for June 17 and December 16

There was agreement that these two meetings should be held outside of Richmond, to accommodate members who must travel.

ACTION: Ben Greenberg agreed to secure a Charlottesville for the June meeting and Gaylene Kanoyton agreed to explore a Williamsburg location for the December meeting.

Briefing from Attorney General's Office

Senior Assistant Attorney General Allen Wilson briefed members on the key points of FOIA as related to public bodies, requirements for announcing and conducting public meetings, remote participation in public meetings, and required Conflict of Interest training. Members who have follow up questions should e-mail them to Karin Clark for forwarding to Mr. Wilson. Ms. Clark provided instructions for accessing the required COI course on the Commonwealth's Knowledge Center. These instructions are embedded below.



COI training and
disclosure.doc

Family and Children's Trust Fund

Fran Inge, Executive Director of FACT, provided an overview of FACT's mission, strategic plan, and initiatives. Both Ms. Inge and members observed that FACT's mission and that of VCSW are related in a number of ways. FACT plans to issue a statewide report on social indicators related to family violence which will provide a baseline for measuring future progress. Members expressed interest in this report when published, and both Ms. Inge and members agreed to give thought to how FACT and VCSW can partner. Ms. Inge's presentation is embedded below.



FACT Presentation
3-18-09.pdf

2009 Legislative Wrap Up

Ben Greenberg and Matt Gross reported on the results of the VCSW recommendations to Governor Kaine for the Administration's consideration in his legislative package for the 2009 General Assembly session:

- **Child care subsidies:** There were no changes to funding for child care subsidies in the Governor's budget and the legislature made no changes in its approved budget bill. Information was also provided indicating that Virginia is expecting to receive \$38 million from the federal stimulus package over the next two years in the Child Care and Development Block Grant. The funds are to be used to supplement not supplant existing state funds. At this time, it is undetermined specifically how the funds will be spent.
- **Medicaid and FAMIS:** The budget proposed and approved by the legislature maintained current eligibility and funding for the Medicaid and FAMIS programs supporting pregnant women and children. The federal stimulus funding was critical to this continued financial support.
- **Mental health:** It was reported that while funding levels were not changed from last year, the reduction in the administrative budget for Community Services Boards of \$12.4 million included in the Governor's budget coupled with expected reductions of local government funding are expected to impact local service delivery.
- **Health care:** While the Council asked the Governor to sustain the funding for free clinics and community health centers, the General Assembly actually provided an additional \$1.0 million to support these services in Virginia.
- **Nursing/faculty shortage:** The General Assembly maintained the support for preparation of nursing faculty at the Master's and Doctoral level that passed in 2008.
- **Health care workforce:** The General Assembly continued to support Health Reform Commission's health care workforce shortage recommendations from 2008.

Legislative Agenda Procedures

During the discussion of the VCSW's legislative agenda procedures, an amendment was offered. The amendment clarified that the procedures are guidelines subject to the VCSW's meeting schedule. Laura Mandala moved to adopt the procedures with the amendment and Theresa Preda

seconded the motion. The motion was carried and the final procedures as amended are embedded below. Members offered a number of ideas for 2009 legislative recommendations. Any suggestions will need to be channeled through the newly-adopted process for vetting by the Legislative Committee.



Legislative Agenda
Guidelines.doc

ACTION: Ben and Laura will e-mail members to solicit suggestions for the VCSW's 2010 legislative communication to the Governor.

Committee Assignments:

Laura Mandala, Marjorie Signer and Helen Tansey agreed to serve on the Legislative Committee, with Ms. Mandala serving as co-chair with Mr. Greenberg. Madge Bush agreed to serve on the Caregiver Awards Committee and withdrew from the Legislative Committee. The Women's Conference Committee was abolished due to the lack of resources for such an event. The Research & Data Collection committee will be revisited at another time. Members absent from today's meeting will be asked about serving on the legislative committee. A revised committee roster is embedded below.



Committee Roster
3.18.09.doc

Caregiver Award Update

The event will take place on November 17, to coincide with Annual National Family Caregivers Month. It will be held at the Science Museum of Virginia from 2:00 – 4:00. The nomination period will be June 1-June 30. Immediately following the meeting, Ms. Collins, Ms. Kanoyton and Ms. Clark were scheduled to drive to SMV to see the reserved space. Members expressed the desire for more outreach this year relative to the nomination announcement. The Caregiver Committee will need to convene at the June 17 meeting to determine logistics, including establishing the selection panel. Ms. Clark will prepare a time-line of tasks to be accomplished.

VCSW Purpose Discussion

Members briefly reviewed the VCSW mission statement and Code of Virginia mandate. The material is embedded below:



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Member Notebooks

At the December 17 meeting, members requested that notebooks be provided to them that would provide background and other VCSW information. It was felt this would be invaluable to new members. In January 2009, the Governor's Chief of Staff issued a "no print" directive to state agencies. State funds can no longer be used to print documents unless the document is determined to be mission critical and a waiver is granted by the appropriate Secretary. As a result, the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) cannot provide the requested

notebooks. However, VCSW currently has a page on the VDSS public website that could be used by members to access certain information that would also be appropriate for public viewing.

ACTION: Ms. Clark will send an e-mail to members asking for suggestions.

Additional Discussion

- Chair Collins noted that March is Women's History Month and is being commemorated with a special exhibit at the Library of Virginia. She suggested that consideration be given to holding the March 2010 meeting at the Library of Virginia.
- The Secretary of the Commonwealth notified Ms. Clark that the terms of six members will end on June 30, 2009. They are members Greenberg, Preda, Mandala, Kanoyton and Tansey and Young. Three vacancies also need to be filled. There was general discussion about the benefit of having active, involved members appointed as members. In addition, attendance is very important. **ACTION:** Chair Collins asked Ms. Clark to provide her with 2008 attendance numbers, so that she can reach out to members who do not attend meetings on a regular basis.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Next meeting

June 17, Charlottesville, meeting site TBD.

Respectfully submitted by Karin Clark